Policy on Cheque Collection Charges by IOC

590. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a request from HPDA regarding directions to Indian Oil for the reimbursement of excess cheque collection charges charged by the Corporation on the supplies of petrol and diesel pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the request would be strictly dealt as per approved policy; and

(d) the reasons for delay and action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers found guilty for violation of policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The HPDA had brought to notice of the Government the issue of charging of bank charges by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) on outstation cheques received by them from the dealers.

(c) and (d) The matter was examined. The dealers are reimbursed demand draft/pay orders/bankers' cheque charges on normative basis at the rates approved by the Government. The outstation cheque facility is an additional facility extended to the dealers by the oil companies. IOC has informed that since they are required to pay bank charges to the bankers on outstation cheques so received from the dealers and deposited by them, such charges in turn are received by them from the dealers.

Oil exploration in Orissa

591. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started exploration of oil and gas in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have surveyed the total reserves of oil and gas in Orissa; and